

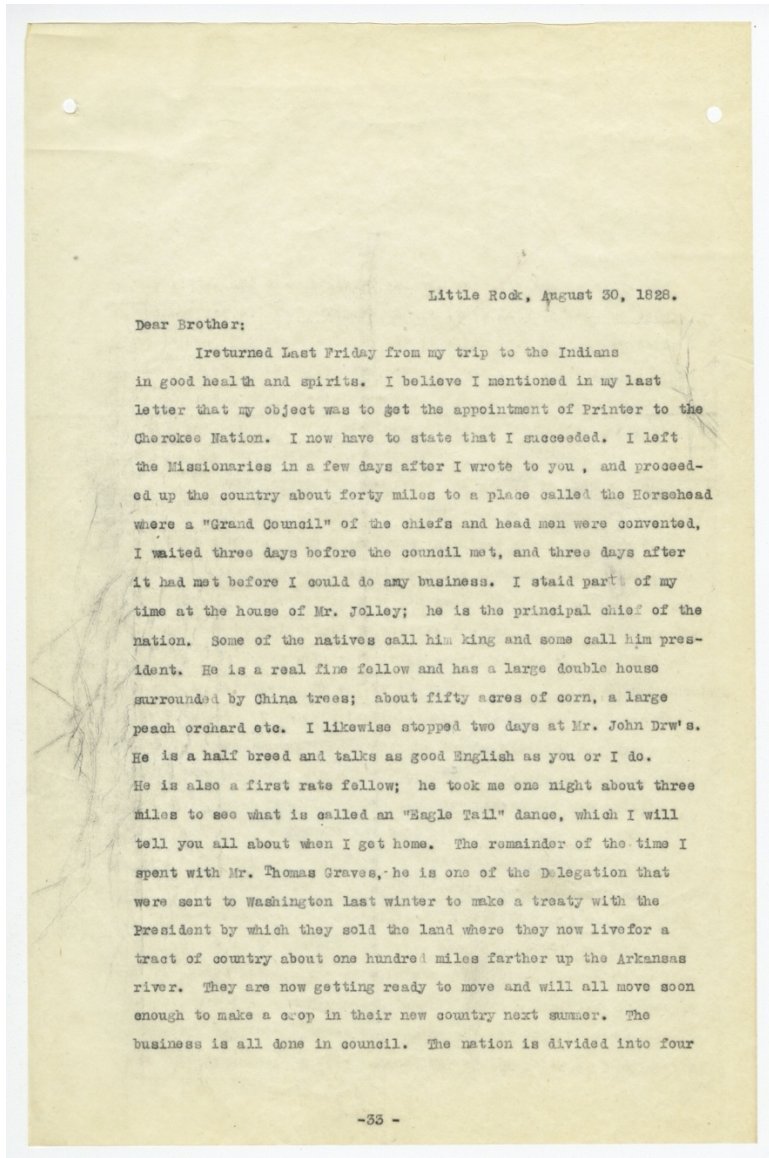
# ARKANSAS BEFORE STATEHOOD: LITTLE ROCK, AUGUST 30, 1828



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**\*For additional information, see letter from August 15, 1828**



Hiram Abiff Whittington to his brother Granville Whittington, Little Rock, August 30, 1828 (Hiram A. Whittington Papers, 1824-1834), p. 1

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districts, and each district chooses annually two committeemen who prepare all the business before it is laid before the people at large. They have a log house in which they meet to do their business which is called the council house. Outside of the house is a large smooth space, where the Indians, men, women and children amuse themselves by dancing, whilst their chiefs are transacting the business of the nation.

I went before the committee and stated to them through an intrepeter that I wished to be employed to superintend their printing office. They smoked and consulted their chiefs a few hours and agreed that I should have the appointment. It will probably be a year before they get ready for their office. I expect to be authorized to promise for them when I return in the spring. The paper will be printed partly in English type and partly in Cherokee. My salary is to be \_\_\_\_\_ on when I commence my services. I am principally indebted to Mr. Woodruff and Mr. Nashburn, the superintendent of the Dwight Mission, for the appointment. There was another applicant for the situation, who was quite confident of getting the appointment and was greatly mortified when he found I had beat him.

There were about five hundred Indians present at the council, who appeared to enjoy themselves very well, and during the three days that the council was in session I did not see one who was not in a good humor. There was not a fight nor any angry words passed between any of them the whole time. Never in my life before have I seen a hundredth part as large a concourse of people assembled together without witnessing more or less broken heads and bloody noses. I felt ashamed for my own color as I thought of

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Hiram Abiff Whittington to his brother Granville Whittington, Little Rock, August 30, 1828 (Hiram A. Whittington Papers, 1824-1834), p. 2

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the angry passions I had seen excited among them on election day and the 4th of July in different parts of the Union. The comparison between the Cherokee Indians and the Nantucket oil boys is certainly very great, especially in their dances; but there is no comparison between the Cherokees and the people of Little Rock; here on any public occasion you cannot go five rods without seeing a fight. Most every man has a pistol a dirk, or sword-cane; there all was harmony, all was peace. I was so well pleased with them that I was sorry that I was obliged to return to this town, and almost wished I was an Indian. I was in the nation about four weeks, most of the time I was riding about the country with a young Cherokee by the name of Thornton, - he has a very good English education and is studying medicine. The first thing the Indians asked us when we stop at a house is to eat, and whether we stop one day or two weeks they will receive no pay; which, I believe is not the case among white people. I send you one of the papers printed in the old Cherokee Nation, edited by a Cherokee and printed by a white man, it is similar to the one to be established here.

I wish you would write to me a little oftener than what you do. I write four letters to your one, I wrote to Father six months since and have not got an answer yet. I shall, in all probability, be at Cohasset about the first of June next. It is more than likely I shall leave here in the course of two months for New Orleans, where I intend remaining until spring; perhaps I shall make another trip among the Indians during the winter. You can direct your letters here until I write again.

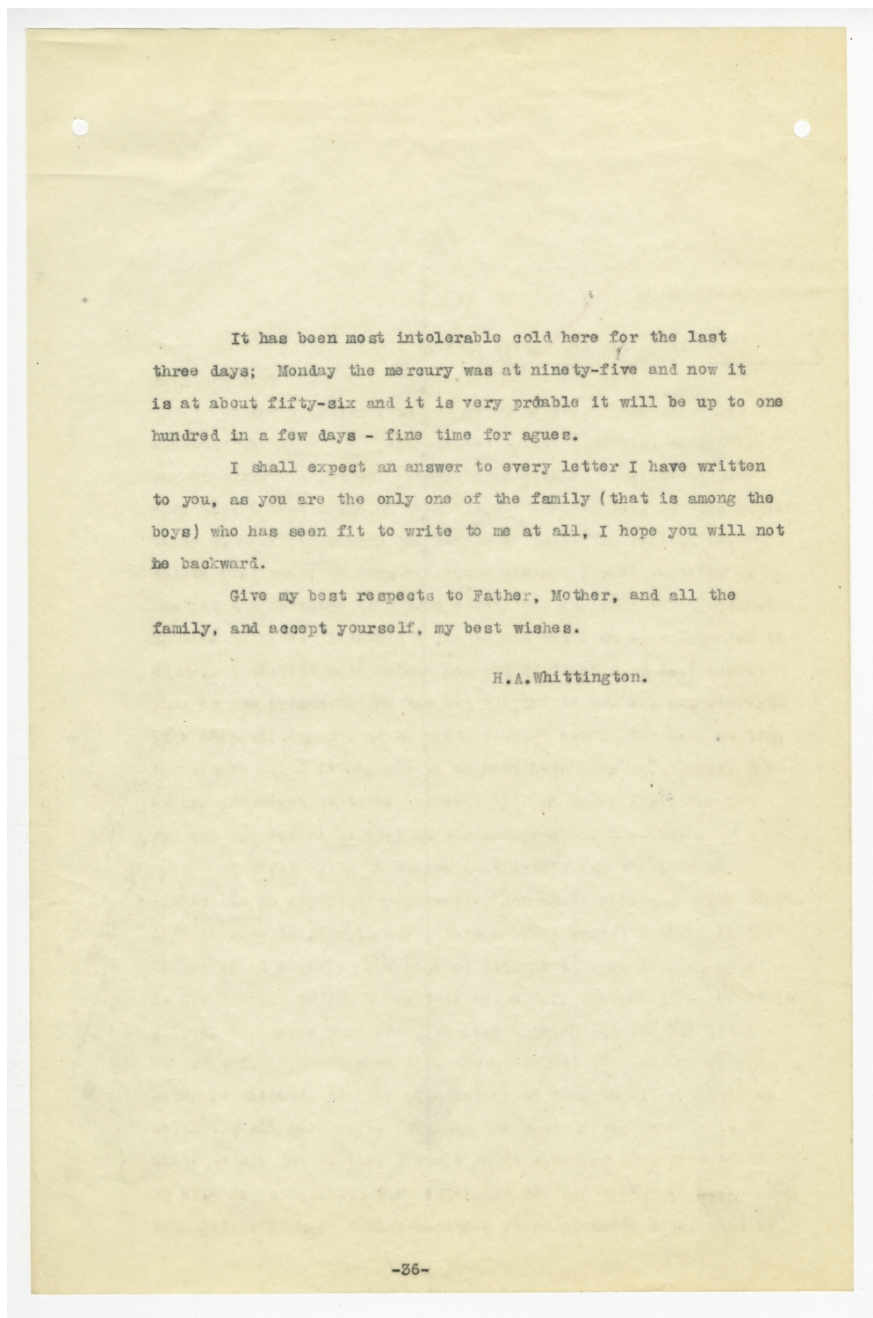
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